

6173/4012US

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims according to the following listing of claims:

24. (Previously Presented) A method for reporting link information in a communication system including a communication terminal and a plurality of transceivers with each of which the communication terminal can communicate over a respective communication link; the method comprising:

the communication terminal determining link information for each of the communication links; and the communication terminal periodically transmitting link message, each link message containing link information for a first set of the communication links, and the link messages being formatted such that groups of successive link messages collectively contain link information for a larger set of the communication links.

25. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein link information for at least one of the communication links is contained in each of successive link messages.

26. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claimed 25, comprising the step of determining a subset of the communication links having the best link according to a selected measure, and wherein link information for the communication links of that subset is contained in each of successive link messages.

27. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the subset consists of two communication links.

28. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein periodically link messages contain link information for the same ones of the communication links.

6173/4012US

29. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the communication terminal is capable of transmitting the link information in a plurality of schemes according to which link information is distributed between successive link messages.

30. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the communication system includes a control unit coupled to the transceivers, and the method comprises the step of causing at least one of the transceivers to transmit a scheme selection signal to the communication terminal indicative of the one of the plurality of schemes to be used by the communication terminal.

31. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the scheme selection signal is transmitted on a broadcast channel.

32. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the scheme selection signal is transmitted as part of a system information message.

33. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in any of claims 30, comprising the step of operating the communication terminal in response to the scheme selection signal so as to use the scheme indicated by the scheme selection signal.

34. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in any of claims 30, wherein one of the schemes involves transmitting link information for a set of the communication links in alternate link messages.

35. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in any of claims 30, wherein one of the schemes involves transmitting link information for a set of the communication links in every third link message.

6173/4012US

36. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 35, wherein the link messages are transmitted over at least one of the said communication links.

37. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 36, wherein each link message is sent in a respective multiframe of communications over the said communication links.

38. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 37, wherein each link message contains link information of six of the communication links.

39. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the link information for a communication link is indicative of the quality of communications over that link.

40. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 39, comprising the steps of receiving the link information and making a handover decision for the communication terminal on the basis of the link information.

41. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 40, comprising the step of the communication terminal signaling that it is capable of operating so as to transmit successive link messages containing link information for different ones of the communication links.

42. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 41, wherein the step of the communication terminal signaling that is capable of operating so as to transmit successive link messages containing link information for different ones of the communication links is performed on establishments by the communication terminal of a connection with the system.

43. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 42, wherein the communication terminal is a radio telephone.

6173/4012US

44. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 43, wherein each transceiver is a base station transceiver of a radio telephone system.

45. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:
a communication terminal;
a plurality of transceivers with each of ~~which~~ which the communication terminal can communicate over a respective communication link;
the communication terminal comprising link measurement means for measuring link information for each of the communication links; transmission means for periodically transmitting link messages, each link message containing link information for a first set of the communication links; and link message forming means for forming the link messages such that groups of successive link messages collectively contain link information for a larger set of the communication links.

46. (Currently Amended) A communication terminal for operation in a radio telecommunications system, the terminal comprising:
communication means for communicating with one or more of a plurality of radio transceivers;
measurement means for measuring a quality of signals received from each of the said transceivers over a respective communication link; and
measurement message generation means for generating measurement messages for transmission by the communication means, each measurement message containing measured quality information for a first set of the communication links; the measurement message generation means being capable of generating a series of measurements messages wherein groups of successive measurement messages collectively contain measured quality information for a larger set of the communication links.

6173/4012US

47. (New) A control unit for operating in a communication system, the communication system including a communication terminal and a plurality of transceivers with each of which the communication terminal can communicate over a respective communication link, the communication system being arranged to perform a method of reporting link information comprising:

the communication terminal determining link information for each of the communication links; and

the communication terminal periodically transmitting link messages, each link message containing link information for a first set of the communication links, and the link messages being formatted in accordance with a predetermined scheme such that groups of successive link messages collectively contain link information for a set of communication links larger than the first set of communication links;

the control unit being coupled to the transceivers and being arranged to cause at least one of the transceivers to transmit a scheme selection signal to the communication terminal indicative of the one of the plurality of schemes to be used by the communication terminal.